

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176651

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PINS, CASC, BH, GT

SUBJECT:U.S. MILITARY ABSENTEES

REF: A) BELIZE 672, B) BELIZE 678

1. DEPT HAS DISCUSSED RETURN OF UNAUTHORIZED MILITARY ABSENTEES (MAS) WITH OFFICE OF JUDGE ADVOCAT GENERAL FOR AIR FORCE. THERE IS NO CURRENT AMNESTY PROGRAM FOR MAS. THE USUAL PROCEDURE FOR A RETURNING AF OFFICER PARA 7 OF REF B INDICATES MA WAS PILOT) IS FOR THE ABSENTEE TO TURN HIMSELF OVER TO MILITARY AUTHORITY IMMEDIATELY AFTER RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES. THE MA WOULD BE HELD FOR A COURT'S MARTIAL OR ALTERNATIVELY THE INDIVIDUAL COULD SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE SERVICE. THE DECISION TO ACCEPT A RESIGNATION IS MADE AT AIR FORCE SECRETARY LEVEL.

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MITIGATING FACTORS COULD BE INTRODUCED BEFORE DECIDING CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE. LESS THAN HONORABLE DISCHARGE IS USUAL RESULT IF NO OTHER POSSIBLE CRIMINAL ACT INVOLVED.
FYI - AF RECORDS INDICATE THERE ARE ONLY TWO REMAINING OFFICER MA-. END FYI

2. IF MA IS ENLISTED MAN PROCESS IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT.

AFTER RETURN TO U.S. AND SURRENDER TO U.S. MILITARY JURISDICTION MA IS RETURNED TO UNIT FROM WHICH ORIGINAL ABSENT. INDIVIDUAL'S CASE LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED BY ADMINISTRATION DISCHARGE BOARD WHERE MA WOULD HAVE LEGAL COUNSEL, OTHER LEGAL PROCEDURES AND SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF A COURT. THE FINAL DECISION IS MADE BY A MAJOR COMMANDER, NORMALLY AT 3 OR 4 STAR LEVEL. THE USUALL RESULT IS A LESS-THAN-HONORABLE DISCHARGE.

3. POSTUNDERSTANDS THE ABOVE SUGGESTED RESULTS ARE NOT GUARANTEED, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW PAUCITY OF INFORMATION.

4. IF MA DECIDES RETURN TO U.S. TO NORMALIZE SITUATION, DEPARTMENT SHULD BE INFORMED ASAP AND WILL COOPERATE WITH POST IN MAKING APPROPRIATE RETURN ARRANGEMENTS. CHRISTOPHER

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